

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP (HENRY KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: UPI ITEM PENTAGON SPYING

FOLLOWING ITEM CARRIED BY UPI FEB. 20: QUOTE WASHINGTON (UPI) -- NAVY YEOMAN CHARLES RADFORD TESTIFIED WEDNESDAY HE STOLE SECRET WHITE HOUSE DOCUMENTS ON THE VIETNAM PEACE TALKS AND OTHER MATTERS AT THE REQUEST OF TWO PENTAGON ADMIRALS AS SOON AS HE STARTED WHITE HOUSE CLERK DUTY IN 1970.

RADFORD'S TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE IMPLIED THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF WERE KEPT IN THE DARK ABOUT SOME ASPECTS OF VIETNAM DIPLOMACY, AND IT SEEMED TO CONTRADICT SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER'S ASSESSMENTS OF THE SCOPE AND NATURE OF THE ALLEGED "PENTAGON SPY RING."

RADFORD SAID THE LATE ADM. REMBRANDT ROBINSON, HIS FIRST BOSS AS A PENTAGON LIAISON CLERK AT THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, TAUGHT HIM FROM THE OUTSET HOW TO STEAL INFORMATION THE JOINT CHIEFS WANTED AND CAUTIONED HIM "NOT TO TAKE ANY CHANCES" OF GETTING CAUGHT.

ROBINSON WAS KILLED IN A HELICOPTER CRASH IN VIETNAM BUT RADFORD SAID HIS SUCCESSOR AT THE WHITE HOUSE, ADM. ROBERT WELANDER, CONTINUED TO PASS HIS INFORMATION TO
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THE OFFICE OF ADM. THOMAS MOORER, CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT

SHIEFS OF STAFF.

MOORER AND KISSINGER HAVE BOTH DISMISSED RADFORD'S PILFERING AS THE INDEPENDENT WORK OF AN OVERZEALOUS ENLISTED MAN -- "TRYING TO GET BROWNIE POINTS," IN KISSINGER'S PHRASE -- THAT PRODUCED ONLY TRIVIA.

RADFORD SAID HIS SPY WORK INCLUDED FUNNELING THE SECRET PAPERS OF KISSINGER AND GEN. ALEXANDER HAIG BACK TO THE PENTAGON AFTER WORKING FOR THEM AS A STENOGRAPHER ON AT LEAST FOUR TRIPS TO VIETNAM, CHINA AND OTHER FAR EAST AREAS.

HE SAID ONE OF MOORER'S AIDES WALKED UP TO HIM IN THE PENTAGON AFTER HE HAD DELIVERED PAPERS FROM A 1971 FAR EAST TRIP WITH HAIG AND SAID: "RADFORD, YOU DO GOOD WORK."

AS ONE OF MANY EXAMPLES OF HIS VIETNAM SPYING, RADFORD DESCRIBED HOW ROBINSON ALLEGEDLY BRIEFED HIM ON WHAT TO LOOK FOR PRIOR TO HAIG'S DECEMBER, 1970, SOUTHEAST ASIA TRIP.

"ONE WAS A CUT IN TROOPS STRENGTH IN VIETNAM," HE SAID. "ANOTHER WAS ANY AGREEMENT THAT THE WHITE HOUSE MIGHT MAKE WITH PRESIDENT THIEU. HE FURTHER ASKED ME TO BRING BACK ANY INFORMATION I MIGHT SEE THAT HAD TO DO WITH TALKS BETWEEN HAIG AND AMBASSADOR (EMORY) SWANK ON AGREEMENTS WITH GEN. LON NOL IN PHNOM PENH.

UPI 02-20 05:25 PED. UNQUOTE. RUSH

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